



SEPTEMBER, 96

# THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

## GARS Ham Of The Month Tommy Moon, WD4E

By Karl Phillips, N4JON

This month's Ham of the Month is Tommy Moon - WD4E. Tommy was born and raised in Toccoa, Georgia and attended Big A grammar school (no, really that's the name of the school!!!). He also attended Stephens County High School. Following graduation, Tommy went to North Georgia Vocational and Training School taking courses in tool and die making.

In 1968, Tommy moved to Norcross, where he has lived ever since.

In 1969, he married Annette and they did as most newlyweds usually do and that was to venture into apartment life for a few years. In 1972, he and Annette bought a house in Norcross and they still reside at that very same home.

In 1975, Tommy became interested in ham radio and it became almost an obsession with him, with his sights set on the Extra class license from the very beginning. Tommy took his novice test down on Peachtree Street at the FCC office that was Angelo Ditty's domain for so long. Tommy passed his novice test and became WD4DWE. Tommy is, in

my opinion, a rarity in ham radio, as he successfully Worked All States as a novice. A year later, in 1976, Tommy passed his test for extra and became WD4E. I guess in those days, they just dropped a few letters off of your call to come up with the new upgraded call sign. Tommy was a very active ham for the next ten years, but veered away from the hobby for a while to coach football and baseball. It was last year that Tommy's good friend Lowry Rouse, KM4Z got him interested in becoming more active and got him to get into the GARS club.

Tommy has a great ham station. He has his "trusty" Kenwood TS-520s, that he has owned since becoming a ham. He also operates an old Kenwood HT2500 on 2 meters. His antenna system is quite impressive. He has a 3 element Mosley TA33, a 2 element 40 meter beam and a 16 element 2 meter phased beam.....all stacked on a 70 foot tower. He also has an 80 meter dipole.

Tommy says his favorite band is the one that

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## The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

Welcome all you new hams to the club and I hope you find whatever information you are looking for here in the club at your fingertips. We have a great resource of knowledge here at GARS that can benefit you in many ways. We strive to be active in the community and within ourselves as a group and we defend all existing privileges that amateurs have to insure that our hobby will be available to many others in the future.

Lately I have been receiving many comments from club members pertaining to the conversations taking place on the GARS repeater involving discussions of business. As we all know there is a code of ethics we must follow.

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## THE GARZETTE

THE GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ichapman@intergate.net or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 236-7372, to Ike Chapman in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

### GARZETTE Editor

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing THE GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in THE GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for THE GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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## Meeting Minutes

By Randy Drescher, K4HS

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NWF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Treasurer Randy Drescher, K4HS; Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH; TVI Chairperson David Shultz, KT4NK; Rookie Radio Manager Cheryl McClure, AE4HN; and Membership Manager David Adcock, KA4KKF.

The meeting was called to order by President Gould on August 15, 1996, at 19:32 local time at the Kroger on Gwinnett Drive and GA 20 in Lawrenceville.

All members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves with a total of 51 persons signing the meeting log.

Randy Drescher, K4HS distributed the Treasurer's report and acting as Secretary, the minutes from the July meeting, which were both approved by the membership present.

Steve Diggs, W4EPI, presented a program on 9600 baud packet and TNCs. The program was well received by the members.

Due to the unexpected departure of President Gould, Larry Osborne gave out the PRO-AM awards. Jack Herndon, KS4LS and John Farr, KD6CLO were the winners of the initial PRO-AM contest. The contest was well received and expected to be repeated this year.

David Adcock, KA4KKF presented one new applicant for membership in GARS. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new member of GARS is Andy Funk, KB7UV.

One GARS member and a visitor won the drawings, prior to the meeting adjournment at 20:55 local time by Vice-President Osborne.

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Know  
Someone  
Interested in  
Ham Radio?

**GARS**  
and the Gwinnett  
Community School  
are offering a  
No-Code Ham Radio  
Class beginning  
September 17.

The class will run for eight weeks and will offer testing for a Technician Class amateur radio license at the conclusion of the course. All successful candidates will also receive a one years membership in **GARS** after receiving their license.

The text for the class will be Now You're Talking available at Radio Shack or HRO. A fee of \$20 payable to the Gwinnett Community School will be required.

The course will be on Tuesdays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville.

For more information please contact Larry Osborne, KD4QFD at (770)513-2799 or the Gwinnett Community School.

## Chintzy QSL Cards

By Dean Matthews, AD4OD

European QSL cards... don't you love them. There are foil covered, embossed textured wonders, photo beauties depicting some beautiful attribute of the area, and even exquisite hand drawn art on some exotic paper. They really go all out.

From the Pacific islands it is not uncommon to see beautifully drawn maps, or photos of the island paradise from where the signal originated... often with the ham worked shown in the photo. A slowly hand-written signal report, with a small personal note about the contact is not uncommon. If mailed, these foreign QSL's often include a beautiful or rare (though current) version of the local postage.

Many of these countries have cost of living-to-income ratios far higher than ours. Many of these hams might be considered poor, if compared the average U.S. ham. But what do these people receive in return?

The vast majority of U.S. hams send back plain, generic stock cards. No photo. No original art. Certainly no exotic foil or paper. Just a callsign and address... typically in black-and-white, and usually a computer generated label with the signal report

on it, plastered on the reverse side, a little askew... because it would have taken .032 seconds longer to line the label up right.

No wonder you read articles about the QSL return rate being at an all time low. These foreign hams undoubtedly feel cheated, trading a 25 cent masterpiece that took him five minutes to prepare for a .02 cent monochrome piece of junk with a label on it. I guess the ultimate insult would be one of those classy Europeans getting back one of those stock cards, with even the callsign and address information written in.

Come on, everybody. Lets get cards made up to be proud of. If you don't feel you are creative, enlist the aide of someone who is. Create a card that promotes your area, your country and you. If you are really that cheap, (King Noodle?) then maybe a generic card might be totally appropriate.

Many of these people overseas are avid collectors. Lets make the "final courtesy" something special, and something to look forward to for these foreigners. Then maybe they won't be "beaming to South America" all the time when you want to work them.

♦♦♦



The author's QSL card.

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## BACKPACKING WITH AN HT

By Earl Whately, KE4TXZ

When backpacking, you feel every ounce as you hike up the first hill and every article or book on the subject encourages you to pack only what you need. Some purists go so far as to cut the handle off their toothbrush and pull out half the bristles. They remove the wrappers from their granola bars and count every grain of rice in each meal. They wouldn't think of carrying a Walkman much less an HT, but I can't imagine hiking without mine.



There's hardly a spot in the Southeast where you can't reach some repeater from a hilltop and in most areas you can reach several. On a recent hike on the Appalachian Trail in North Carolina I chatted with hams on three different repeaters (including **GARS**) from a campsite located in a gap between some very large hills. Current weather reports are easy to get and I often get helpful reports on trail conditions.

On our annual 50 mile hike along the AT this July I used the HT each evening to see which repeater was reachable in case of an emergency and the Scouts couldn't believe we could hear **GARS** from the Smokies. Three watts wasn't enough to make contact with home, but we did talk to hams in Knoxville on the same frequency.

On the fourth day, after 16 hours of hard and continuous rain, we had a problem. Hiking the trail was like walking in a stream. Everything was slippery and distances that could normally be hiked in an hour took as long as three. After six miles one of the adults realized that four more miles would tax him beyond his ability. Two boys had their sleeping bags and all their clothes

soaked and one was badly chaffed. It was still raining (it rained for another 14 hours) and the cool temperatures made hypothermia a real possibility. Rather than risk an emergency later we decided to pull off where the trail crossed a highway.

When I used the HT, Allen Garver, KE4PTQ, responded immediately and offered to help before I asked. He and Doris Hudson, KE4RRX, were waiting at the road with hot coffee and hot chocolate when the scouts came out of the woods. They had a station wagon and a pick up truck and gladly offered a ride to our cars. Without the HT, two of the adults would have had to thumb a ride 30 miles along three different roads, pick up the cars and drive back to pick up the rest of the party. And who wants to pick up two soaking wet, unshaven men on a mountain road? We might still be there.

It doesn't matter if it weighs more than two meals and a trail stove, the HT and extra batteries go in my backpack on every trip, and at least one other adult in the troop has vowed to have a license and an HT before next year's hike. I may have to brush my teeth with my finger, cut the labels off my clothes and trim the brim of my hat to save weight but the HT is worth every ounce.

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### Random Ramblings

"If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside."

>>> Robert X. Cringely, InfoWorld



Jack Herndon, KS4LS (left) and John Farr, KD6CLO accept their plaques for winning the **GARS** Pro-Am Contest.

Photo by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



The first place plaque for the **GARS** Pro-Am contest. The contest consisted of teams of two **GARS** members, one of which was a General class or higher (the Pro) and one which was a Tech-Plus class or lower (the Am). Points were awarded for contacts on various modes and bands. The contest took place on May 11, 1996 and lasted for four hours. Plans are already underway for the next **GARS** Pro-Am contest, don't miss out on the fun this time around.

Photo by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

## FCC To Open Gate 2

SB QST ARL ARLB055  
ARLB055 FCC to open Gate 2

The FCC has announced that vanity call sign filing Gate 2 will open September 23. Under Gate 2, Amateur Extra class licensees may request a vanity call sign on or after that date. File requests on FCC Form 610V. Legibility is critical. If your application is not legible, you could experience a delay in processing, lose the opportunity to obtain a requested call sign or even obtain a call sign different from what you want.

Under Gate 2, you must hold an unexpired Amateur Extra class operator/primary station license to request a vanity call sign for your primary station. To request a vanity call sign for a club station under Gate 2, you must also hold an unexpired club station license grant listing you as the license trustee. Applicants should refer to the licensee data base to verify that a requested call sign is not already assigned. A call sign is normally assignable two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, void ab initio, or death of the grantee.

Using Form 610V, provide a list of up to 25 call signs in the order of preference. The first assignable call sign on the list will be assigned to your station. Remember: When requesting a call sign under Gate 2 for your primary or club station, the call sign must have been unassigned for at least two years. As an Amateur Extra class operator, you may request a call sign from any group, A, B, C or D.

Any call sign requested must be one designated for the region of your mailing address, as follows:

One of the contiguous 48 states: Regions 1 to 10.  
Alaska: Regions 1 to 11.  
American Samoa: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 8.  
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 0.  
Guam: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 2.  
Hawaii: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 13 having numeral 6 or 7.  
Puerto Rico: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 3 or 4.  
Virgin Islands: Regions 1 to 10, or Region 12 having numeral 2.

For explanations of Groups A, B, C and D and the geographic Regions, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-S, Amateur Station Sequential Call Sign System. For more information, see Fact Sheet PR5000 Number 206-V Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign System.

Advanced, General, Technician Plus, Technician, and Novice class operators are not yet eligible to request by list. Advanced class operators will be eligible at Gate 3. Others will be eligible at Gate 4.

A separate Public Notice will be released providing guidelines for the implementation of electronic filing procedures for FCC Form 610V.

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### Random Ramblings

"Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on too long."

>>> Ogden Nash

"Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time."

>>> Stephen Wright

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."

>>> Groucho Marx

## Ham Of The Month

*(Continued from page 1)*

is open, but he is partial to 10 meters. He also hangs out on 3972 and talks to friends he made over in Alabama. One of his contacts over there is KK4WX, who just happens to work at the college that Tommy's oldest son, Paul, attends.

Tommy's other hobbies include deer hunting and fishing. In general, he is fond to hunting during the winter months. He also includes coaching football and baseball as one of his hobbies. He is a gun admirer and one of his most memorable QSO's was with a ham over in Finland that was a test fire employee for the Sako Company, which is a rifle company that manufactures the favorite rifle in Tommy's gun collection.

Tommy and his wife, Annette have two sons. Paul, the oldest, attends Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton and Brett is a sophomore at Norcross High School and plays varsity baseball. Tommy is employed at Williams Die and Mold and specializes in tool and die plastic injection molding.

Please welcome Tommy when you hear him on the GARS machine or see him at the meetings. Tommy was fun to talk to and we carried on for longer than the interview actually lasted and talked of other things newsworthy. I thought about trying to talk him into loading up that antenna system on a flat bed and putting it up at my QTH, but I didn't think he would go for it !!!! I guess I'll just stick with that coathanger I use on 10 and 15. I look forward to talking to Tommy again soon and maybe next month I'll be giving YOU a call to feature YOU as Ham of the Month.

See you next month and best 73 -

Karl  
N4JON

## Ravin'

Author unknown  
Submitted by AD4LY

Once upon a midnight dreary, fingers cramped and vision bleary,  
System manuals piled high and wasted paper on the floor,  
Longing for the warmth of bed sheets, still I sat there doing spreadsheets.  
Having reached the bottom line I took a floppy from the drawer, I then invoked the SAVE command and waited for the disk to store, Only this and nothing more.



Deep into the monitor peering, long I sat there wondering, fearing, Doubting, while the disk kept churning, turning yet to churn some more.  
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token.  
"Save!" I said, "You cursed bugger!  
Save my data from before!"  
One thing did the phosphors answer, only this and nothing more, Just, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Was this some occult illusion, some maniacal intrusion?  
These were choices undesired, ones I'd never faced before.  
Carefully I weighed the choices as the disk made impish noises.  
The cursor flashed, insistent, waiting, baiting me to type some more.  
Clearly I must press a key, choosing one and nothing more, From "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

With fingers pale and trembling, slowly toward the keyboard bending,

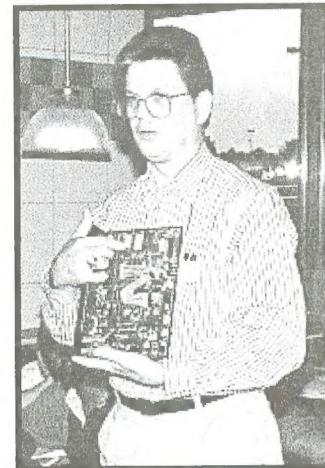
Longing for a happy ending, hoping all would be restored, Praying for some guarantee, timidly, I pressed a key.  
But on the screen there still persisted words appearing as before. Ghastly grim they blinked and taunted, haunted, as my patience wore, Saying "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

I tried to catch the chips off guard, and pressed again, but twice as hard.  
I pleaded with the cursed machine: I begged and cried and then I swore.  
Now in mighty desperation, trying random combinations, Still there came the incantation, just as senseless as before.  
Cursor blinking, angrily winking, blinking nonsense as before.  
Reading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

There I sat, distraught, exhausted, by my own machine accosted.  
Getting up I turned away and paced across the office floor.  
And then I saw a dreadful sight: a lightning bolt cut through the night.  
A gasp of horror overtook me, shook me to my very core.  
The lightning zapped my previous data, lost and gone forevermore.  
Not even, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

To this day I do not know the place to which lost data go.  
What demonic nether world us wrought where lost data will be stored,  
Beyond the reach of mortal souls, beyond the ether, into black holes?  
But sure as there's C, Pascal, Lotus, Ashton-Tate and more,  
Will you one day be left to wander, lost on some Plutonian shore,  
Pleading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

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Steve Diggs, W4EPI makes a presentation on packet radio at the August **GARS** meeting at the Kroger on Highway 20 in Lawrenceville. Steve's presentation covered packet radio in general and packet at 9600 baud in particular.

Photo by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ



Marty Fowler, KE4MLH applies some of his secret sauce to the hams for the **GARS**/Alford annual picnic at Fort Yargo State Park in Winder.. This years picnic was another great success and enjoyed by all those in attendance. Hats off to Marty and all those that helped him prepared that delicious barbecue pork.

Photo By Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

## The President's Pen

*(Continued from page 1)*

living not knowing them. Where it gets out of hand is when a general discussion takes place when an individual is not asked what they do for a living and they offer the information many times over during a conversation and they offer it to individuals that they know and have conversations with on a daily basis. The topic eventually gets boring to say the least and in fact many others out there listening and thinking about joining the conversation are soon turned off and don't speak. With all the possible topics we can discuss on amateur radio I think this is probably one of the least that needs to be exploited. So lets get on the repeater and have a good time and keep the conversations light and full of fun and informative with ham radio information about our hobby and radios that we use and so forth. Remember it's a community repeater and we have families out there with little ears listening.

Well thanks to Steve Diggs, W4EPI and the others involved at the site, Snellville is finally taking on a new face lift. The electricity is in, the security fence has been installed, the building has been reinforced with a good door and lock, and folks we are in business. As I speak things are taking shape to get our 440 machine on line there and our third link will be soon installed in the near future as well as our backup 2 meter machine. Steve will have the packet system back up and running soon so you all can look forward to that happening.

Before we can get all this accomplished, we will need volunteers to climb the monster tower and install our 4 bay 2 meter antenna consisting of 4 dipoles which is about 20 feet long and is quite heavy. We also will need feed line

installed if we have it for the 2 meter link. Our 440 machine has an antenna already installed at the top so that will be a plug and play setup. In any event, the work must take place before we can enjoy the benefits.

Thanks to Mark Kozma, KD3GC our new meeting place at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville has become a reality and we can plan our first meeting there, probably in October or November. The cost to the club will be \$20.00 a month for use of the facilities including all utilities and from what I hear from Mark, a good sound system. This will be kind of a semi permanent meeting place we hope and will give us some stability in getting people together for a meeting. Our most heartfelt thanks to Mark for putting this together for us.

I am hoping the club can get out into the community and show off ham radio again. We will need volunteers to man the booth and radios that we bring and we plan on having a fun time. Lets talk it up and see what we can do in this area.

For those of you who are concerned about my health, let me say that I am not a quitter and will do my best to stay on as your President unless something serious takes precedent which can happen. I am going in for a complete checkup with a good cardiologist and hopefully he will be able to fine tune my ticker so it does not take off like a jack rabbit on occasion which was the reason for my early departure from the last meeting.

As you all should know, it takes a lot of dedicated people to run a club of this size. People who run for office in this club have to work and I can say that we have a great bunch of officers in this club who put in their time and get things done. It is rare indeed but somehow, GARS has been fortunate to have these people around and I am glad that they were here because it makes my job that much easier to

do. There is much talent in the club and you see it in each passing day. There are numerous club members just willing to do something for the good of the club and that makes the officers get more involved in wanting to do things. It all kind of goes hand in hand, the officers get input from the members and then the members rally around the officers whenever there is something to do that benefits the club. We have been blessed with newsletter editors starting with my term as President like Dean Matthews, AD4OD to the present editor Ike Chapman, KE4GYM and members like Art Smith, KE4MQX giving up much time and printing costs to make The Garzette a really professional looking newsletter. I hope everyone out there feels as good as I do about the people in this club as being nothing but first class and this applies to each and everyone of you.

The club is in good financial shape and I expect to see us make our budgets for the remaining fiscal period. The bylaws are now changed so that membership dues are due on June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year with a closing of the door by June 30<sup>th</sup> if members have not renewed by then.

The plans to have the club granted full tax exempt status with the IRS is still in the works at this writing with Marty Fowler, KE4MLH going through his CPA at a cost factor to us that is necessary but will be well worth the expense if we can get tax exempt status, so keep your fingers crossed as this is something we need if we are to be able to receive donations and a big cut in our mailing costs.

I am looking forward to meeting our new members at the next club meeting along with all of my old friends so won't you please come and be prepared to have a lot of fun with us?

73 Howie, W4NWF



## MUSICIANS LEARN CW FASTER

By Dean Matthews, AD4OD

How many have heard that? Musicians learn CW easier than others. Bunk! I am a musician by avocation, and I can surely attest that it came to me as hard as anybody. I thought I tried everything to get the five WPM behind me, but just kept stumbling on my mistakes. Whenever I would start miss a letter while copying CW, it would fluster me and I would miss a long string... every time! As I improved and started getting character groups right, my mind (in total disregard for my wishes) would try to finish the word before hand. This is fine when you're right, but quite disastrous when you guess wrong.

Musicians are taught to press on when they miss notes... taught to think ahead... so why did it mess me up so bad learning CW. I guess I will never know. I guess the one trait all accomplished musicians have in common that might make it APPEAR like they might learn CW easier is that of persistence.

To learn to play any instrument well, you have to accept doing it poorly, over and over and over and over again until finally you conquer each obstacle. You have to listen to others doing something with apparent ease that seems to be a physical impossibility for you to do at this stage. Long-term persistence in the face of constant defeat is a masochistic trait shared by most people who have partially con-



quered an instrument.

It is also the trait that, from start to finish, might cause an instrumentalist to complete their code objective in less WEEKS than someone else. But chances are the player and non-musician will spend the same number of total study hours achieving their goal. The non-musician is discouraged by the slowness of his improvements, causing him to set it aside in disgust for periods of time before pressing on again. The musician plods on, because he *knows* it will come in time, with practice. This is nothing new to him.

We are all bombarded with "free" advice while we are learning the code. Some good, some bad. I was not interested in an entry level license when I was starting out. I wanted my General Class ticket so I could talk to the world.

I made it to General, and beyond. As a matter of fact, I never

took the 5wpm, I passed the 13 first... barely. And barely was "Close Enough To Perfect For Me", to quote the country supergroup, "Alabama".

You can do it too. Learn from your kids, who are in the other room hitting all those sour notes every evening. Every day they practice they hit less bad. Every week they get harder music to try, pushing the envelope of their ability. A trumpet teacher once told me that if I missed a days practice, it set me back three. He said a few minutes was better than nothing. He was right - and this is the real key to learning anything that comes slow.

If you REALLY want to learn it, reserve the time. Get a calendar out and make a schedule. Really set aside 30 minutes of practice each and every day, 7 days a week for a month. Vary your practice routine, and stick to it for thirty days and I can just about guarantee you can go for your thirteen WPM test.

But remember, for each day you miss add three more, and vow to not miss another until the month is up.

I'll meet you on 30 meters in a month.



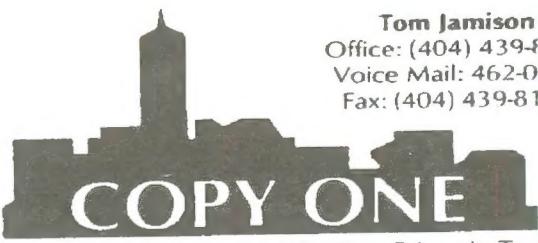
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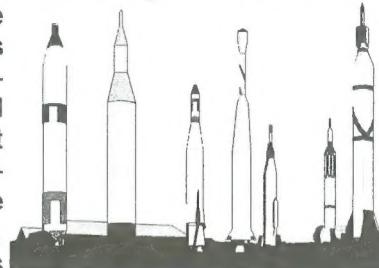
## THE '96 HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST

By Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ

I married a girl from Harvest, Alabama. That's a small community ten miles north of Lick Skillet right in the middle of those other thriving communities of Tony, Jeff and Bobo. (Named for famous Alabamans?) The area has a lot going for it, not the least of which is its proximity to Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville, and it gave me a good excuse to go to the Huntsville Hamfest.

Huntsville's population is only about one third that of Atlanta, but the space program and the high tech industries that support it attract a lot of technically oriented people and many of them are hams. In fact, if you look in the ARRL directory you will see there are almost as many repeaters in Huntsville as in Atlanta. Small wonder that the Huntsville Hamfest is such a good one.

There was little related to ham radio - new or used - that couldn't be found and there were choices! Over 50 dealers spilled out of the main ballroom into the hall and the adjacent, larger ballroom held uncounted vendors. All the major manufacturers were there as were three different wire companies, three antenna companies, two sign dealers and lots of smaller dealers offering everything imaginable.



There were thirty different forums on Saturday and another 9 on Sunday. Prizes were awarded every hour and included five 2 meter rigs and Yaesu's newest HF rig each day. It may not have been heaven but I'm sure I saw a packet station with a direct satellite uplink. (Come to think of it, I did see a few angelic faces.)

I had only three complaints. The hot dogs were less than spectacular, there wasn't enough time, and there were no ATM machines, but they did take an out of state check. That means I ate junk food, wandered through ham stuff all day and spent too much money. What a great weekend!

Make plans to go next year. It's not hard to get to Huntsville and it only takes about 3 1/2 hours. When you get into Alabama just follow the road through Valley Head, Henegar, Paint Rock and Gurley. You can't miss it.

❖❖❖

### Random Ramblings

"Man is the only animal that laughs and has a state legislature."

>>> Samuel Butler

### Berra's Law:

"You can observe a lot by just watching."

## You Might Be...

You might be a ham:

If, at Christmas, it goes without saying that you will be the one to find the burnt-out bulb in the string.

If you know how to take the cover off of your computer, and what size screwdriver to use.

If you don't even know where the cover to your personal computer is.

If you think your computer looks better without the cover.

If you've ever taken the back off your TV just to see what's inside.

If you have ever taken an HT apart to modify it for cross band.

If you have ever had to get your lawn mower fixed because one of your buried radials worked its way to the surface.

If your favorite part of the 6 o'clock news is comparing their latest satellite weather picture with yours.

If you thought the concoction ET used to phone home was stupid, but would do it yourself if it would bring in rare DX.

Thanks to Marty Ernst, KD4HLV for forwarding these gems.

❖❖❖

### Work GARS

**REPEATERS**  
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PL 82.5  
70-cm 444.525 MHz <sup>+5MHz</sup>  
PL 156.7

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**PACKET**  
WD4JXR-6 / SNELLV Packet  
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**SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET**  
Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the  
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**MORSE CODE PRACTICE**  
An interactive Morse Code practice session  
follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on  
the GARS 2m repeater.

**PACKET RADIO USERS NET**  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the GARS  
2m Repeater.

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## Rookie Radio Notes

By Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

As this issue goes to press, we should be underway with our automatic antenna tuner kit building class. Thanks again to Bob Smith, N3FTU, for letting us use his basement for our workshop. Once this project is complete, we may consider building a Morse code keyer. If anyone is interested in participating in this or any other type of kit class, please let me know and I will begin to firm up plans for our next adventure in soldering!

If you don't normally check in to the **GARS** net on Tuesdays at 8 P.M., you are missing out. In addition to the large number of "for sale" bargains that are offered each week, there are updates on radio demonstrations and fox hunts (the fox is a radio transmitter that you must find). Sometimes events are organized too quickly to be able to announce them in the newsletter or at a meeting, so you must listen to the net and get the latest news. Try not to miss it.

Of course after the net is over, it's time for Code Practice. I've been sending the code practice every Tuesday night at 9 P.M. for over a year now (with occasional much appreciated assists from club members such as David, KA4KKF and Bev, KE4VDI, when I'm out of town.) I would love to have someone help out on a regular basis. It is really quite easy to do. I would be happy to give the details to anyone who can offer their help. When I

was working on upgrading my code speed, the code practice was run two nights a week (Tuesday and Thursday). It was a wonderful resource for me and really helped me upgrade quickly. I would love to see us go back to twice a week, but that would require the volunteering of several people on a regular basis. If you can donate even just one night a month, please give me a call (770-995-5159) and I'll show you how it is done.

Also, take note! A new No-code Technician class will be starting soon. If you know someone who is interested, get in touch with Larry, KD4QFD, who is teaching this class again. The last class produced a very high percentage of passing test scores. He must be doing something right!

❖❖❖

### Random Ramblings

"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."

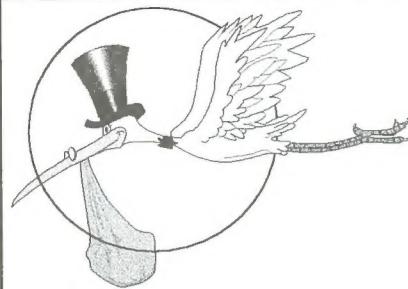
>>>Scott Adams

"The innovator is not an opponent of the old, but a proponent of the new."

>>>Lyle E. Schaller

"The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play."

>>>Arnold Toynbee



*Congratulations to Jim (KR4XY) and Kathy (KE4YWF) Baker on the arrival of their first harmonic.*

*James M. Baker, III arrived on August 16, 1996 weighing in at 10 lbs. 4 oz.*

*Dad reports that mother and baby are doing fine and that he's still grinning from ear to ear.*



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## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

#### Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House, 5490 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody. Dutch dinner is at 6:30PM, followed by meeting. Talk In -145.410(-)

### First Wednesday

#### HamWatch

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM

### First Thursday

#### N.E. Ga ARC

Jefferson Civic Center, off Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson. Meeting is at 6:30PM. Talk In - 147.225(+)

#### Atlanta Radio Club

Kitteredge Magnet School, North Druid Hills Rd. and Briarcliff. Meeting is at 7:30PM Talk In -146.820(-)

### Second Wednesday

#### North Fulton Radio League

Alpha Soda Restaurant, Haynes Bridge Road, Alpharetta, Dinner at 6:30PM. Meeting at 7:30PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

### Second Thursday

#### Alford Memorial Radio Club

Elks Lodge on Memorial Drive. Dinner at 6:00PM Meeting at 7:30PM. Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

#### East Atlanta LAN

Scott Blvd Baptist Church in Decatur. Meeting is at 10:00AM. Talk In - 145.410(-)

### 3rd THURSDAY

#### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Gwinnett Justice And Administrative Center in Lawrenceville. Meeting begins at 7:30 in the main auditorium Talk In-147.075(+)



Visit GARS On The World Wide Web

<http://www.gars.org>

Up to date information on club activities,  
officers, committees, announcements,  
THE GARZETTE Online, and much more.

Email suggestions for additions to  
[gtomlin@mindspring.com](mailto:gtomlin@mindspring.com) or [ichapman@intergate.net](mailto:ichapman@intergate.net)

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# THE GARZETTE

SEPTEMBER, 96

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
P.O. Box 88  
Lilburn, GA 30226



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**GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on September 19 at 7:30 P.M.**

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THE GARZETTE

SEPTEMBER, 96

## Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI VEC  
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 338-8791  
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road,  
Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758  
St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell  
Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM  
George White, KN4NG 361-6850  
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.  
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM  
Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710  
First Presbyterian Church,  
183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC  
Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC  
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142  
Episcopal Church of the Atonement  
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM  
GARS W5YI-VEC  
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks  
Trickum Rd, Lilburn

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	<b>GARS Weekly Net</b>
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	<b>GARS CW Practice</b>
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	<b>GARS Packet Net</b>
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	<b>Gwinnett ARES Net</b>
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.